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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Fuerstenwalde

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 4 to 9 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 October 1953

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REFERENCES

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 4 and 9 September 1953, the Pionier Kaserne on Gartenstrasse in Fuerstenwalde was occupied by about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. No training activity was observed in the billeting area on 4 September. A T-34 tank and a JS-1 tank practiced machine gun firing on the training grounds. About 30 soldiers each stood near the tanks; 50 other soldiers practiced carbine firing. A military band played in the barracks area at 10 a.m. on 6 September. About 60 soldiers with suitcases left the barracks installation toward the railroad station at about 1:30 p.m. Five T-34/85 tanks moved out of the installation and toward the airfield at 6:45 a.m. on 7 September. About 50 soldiers engaged in aiming practice with a 1 T-34 tank on the training site. On 9 September, about 80 soldiers practiced aiming with two tanks on the same site.

2. Between 4 and 9 September, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse was occupied by about 1,800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. No training activity was noticed in the barracks area at 9:45 a.m. on 7 September. About 250 soldiers practiced carbine firing with live ammunition in the training area west of the installation. At noon on 9 September, about 300 soldiers armed with carbines marched into the barracks installation, coming from the training site.

about 400 troops each from the barracks installation on Gartenstrasse and Braunsdorferstrasse alternately practiced at Lieberose and that the troops were shipped to, and from the troop training grounds by rail. They were supplied by warehouse No 3.

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3. On 9 September, the barracks installation along the road to Rauen was occupied by 250 to 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with tank insignia. A T-34 tank and 1 JS-1 tank were observed in the installation. Two JS-2 tanks and 1 assault gun practiced driving in the terrain.

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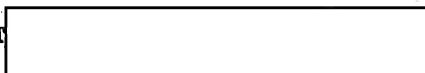
The barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse quartered about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. About 300 troops with full field equipment, rifles and light machine guns engaged in group combat firing. Twenty-four soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced aiming with 8 x 45-mm AT guns. Eight more 85-mm AT guns were parked in the barracks installation.

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1.  Comment. Regular information from Lieberose, last of August, indicated that the quarters of the troop training grounds were occupied only by guard details and that only occasionally were field exercises conducted there.  This information checks with the present report, according to which the barracks installations in Fuerstenwalde were occupied by units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, except for those elements of the division stationed in Berlin and at the Lieberose troop training grounds. The barracks installation along the road to Rauen, which had previously been carried as being occupied only by 638th Motor Trans Bn of the division, has presumably been additionally occupied by a small tank unit of the division after the new occupation in the middle of 1953.

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Comment.

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Sochilov (fnu), Captain Kuratov (fnu) and Major (Adm) Nikolski (fnu) are reported for the first time.

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Comment.

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